Making a Difference in Dementia: Nursing Vision and Strategy

All nurses contribute to the stages of the dementia pathway to:
• improve
• and sustain better outcomes

Maximising the unique nursing contribution to high quality, compassionate care and support for people with dementia and their carers/families.

Key Facts

• Dementia is a term that is used to describe a collection of symptoms that can occur from a range of underlying causes. A diagnosis of dementia does not guarantee a person’s health or their ability to carry on with normal activities.
• Dementia is the loss of cognitive functioning—thinking, remembering, and reasoning—deteriorating to an extent that interferes with daily life.
• There are currently 850,000 people with dementia in the UK, with this figure expected to rise to over 900,000 by 2025. The number of people affected by dementia is expected to increase each year, with a significant and urgent challenge to health and social care.
• Dementia is predominantly a disorder of later life, but it can also occur at any age. Dementia affects people from all age groups, but is most common in people aged 65 and over. Dementia is not a normal part of aging. It is not possible to prevent or cure dementia, but there are many things we can do to delay its onset, delay its progression, and improve the quality of life for people with dementia and their families.
• The number of people with dementia is increasing and presents a significant and urgent challenge to health and social care, both in the present and in the future.

Purpose of Commissioning Board

• To make this happen within dementia care (all settings including care homes and nursing homes) nurses need to take the lead in the 6 areas below:

1. Keeping well and awareness raising/reducing social stigma
2. Early identification, diagnosis and support
3. Maintaining well-being and living with dementia
4. Managing acute and complex conditions with dementia
5. End of life and bereavement support

Purpose

This vision will develop and achieve the strategic aim to ensure adequate support is available. The purpose of this commissioning board is to achieve the following:

1. To develop a dementia-friendly pathway to support all people with dementia and their carers/families to ensure the highest quality of care and support.
2. To ensure that people with dementia and their carers/families receive the best possible care and support.
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Model for Dementia Nursing

Delivering through partnership and in all environments of care, nurses work collaboratively with GP (including primary care) and voluntary sector organisations to manage the interface with wider community services.

Dementia Awareness – All Nurses

All nurses have an awareness of dementia:
• Basic training;
• Making every contact count;
• Able to support and signpost public health messages.

Dementia Skilled – All Nursing to interface with dementia directly

All nurses that have more regular and intense contact with people with dementia, providing specific interventions, care and services.

Dementia Awareness Services – Experts in the field of Dementia care

Nurses with an expert level of skill and knowledge / specialist role / dementia champions in the care, treatment and support of people with dementia, their families and carers.

Dementia Specialists – Experts in the field of Dementia care

Nurses with an expert level of skill and knowledge / specialist role / dementia champions in the care, treatment and support of people with dementia, their families and carers.

Dementia Education – All Nurses

All nurses have an awareness of dementia:
• Basic training;
• Making every contact count;
• Able to support and signpost public health messages.